

Lithuania costumes of the XVII century according to Praetorius.

MY SINCERE GRATITUDE

For all the work and help involved with the success of the VILTIS Anniversary Party my deepest gratitude is expressed to the following people: Mrs. Charlotte Chen, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Boand, Ann Sereika, Naujienos, Frances Williams, Julia Kaupas, Mei Benedict, John Kaupas, John Taylor, Doris Vail, Al Geary and Bob Allison. Thanks Sans End. VYTS.

DANCE OF LIETUVA PRINTED

We hoped that the new dance book on Lithuanian folk dances would be in the mail during April, and our hopes materialized. The book was printed while the author was en tour. It caught up with him while he was convalescing in Grand Island (near Buffalo, N. Y.) and from there Frank and Jane Giori (whose home was converted into a hospital and a storage space) and Bill Brooks took care of the mailing.

Tho yours truly is disappointed with the binding, it is not the covers that count but the contents. And our hopes are that our patrons will find the book invaluable.

The price of the new book is \$5.00.

"WHO HAPPEN" ARTICLE

WIDELY REPRINTED

The article "Who Happen", which appeared in the VILTIS issue of December, 1950, and which discussed the present trend of "creativity" and other problems current among Square Dancers, received wide acclaim. It was reprinted by several magazines and bulletins, among them, the Round Up (Minnesota), Washington State's federation bulletin, Arctic Circular (Alaska) and Northern Junket (Ralph Page, N.H.). We received enough letters to put out a whole 20 page VILTIS issue and with not a single dissenter.

CIURLIONIS DANCES IN FILMS

The International Institute of Cleveland filmed the Ciurlionis Ensemble performing five popular dances: Ruguciai, Blezdingele, Ziogelis, Lenciugelis and Malunas. The film is in color.

The entire Ciurlionis Ensemble, on April 8, presented a full program of songs and native instruments over Cleveland's station WJW. The program was very successful.

To the Subscribers of "VILTIS" —

Due to the serious illness of our beloved Vytautas Beliajus, the further publication of "Viltis" must be suspended until such time as his health permits resuming his editorship. The present May-June issue, therefore, will be the last for the duration of his hospitalization, a period of many months. We are not accepting renewals. Many of you, we hope, will permit your subscriptions to remain, permitting Mr. Beliajus to fulfill your subscription period after his recovery. However, we know that this is impossible for certain subscribers. Therefore, if you will write Charlotte L. Chen, 5521 Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois (after August 10th, White Gates, County Street, Norwalk, Connecticut) she will see that the proper refund is made as soon as she obtains the "Viltis" records, which at present are securely locked in Mr. Beliajus' suitcase in the hospital. No refund will be sent unless requested.

As for Vyts: Temporarily he is in Cook County Hospital, Men's Building, 1835 W. Harrison Street, Chicago. There has been a serious flare-up of tuberculosis which together with an amoebic infection of long standing — though luckily not malicious — will keep him hospitalized for about two years. It is hoped that very soon he will be permanently located in a tuberculosis sanitarium — perhaps not in Chicago area. When we saw him Wednesday, July 11th, he looked better and said he felt somewhat better. He has been able to retain food for a week which is very hopeful. His condition does not permit carrying on any correspondence, but he asks that we thank you for your friendship and generosity and to tell you that every word is greatly appreciated.

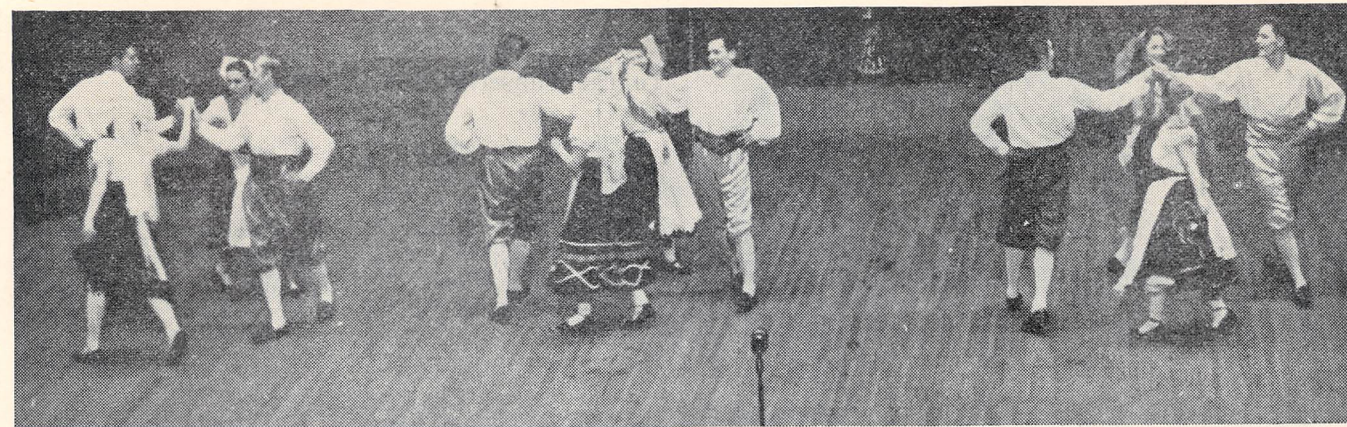
As soon as Mr. Beliajus has a permanent mailing address, we will advise you. We will try to keep you all posted as to his progress which we know is sure with his great fath and your friendship and generosity.

Please direct any correspondence regarding "Viltis" to Charlotte Lewis Chen, 5521 Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois (after August 10th, White Gates, County Street, Norwalk, Connecticut); all other correspondence to Jerry Lewis Joris, 8150 Anthony Avnue, Chicago 17, Illinois.

Charlotte Lewis Chen,
Jerry Lewis Joris

OUT-OF-TOWNERS AT VILTIS BIRTHDAY PARTY

This year, people came from great distances especially to be present at the VILTIS Birthday party. The most distant point was Denver, Colo. with three representatives; Bob Allison, president of the Mile High Folk Dance group, Al Geary and Doris Veil. Tom Unitis, active in the Pittsburgh K of L circles (VYTIS) flew in from Pittsburgh, Pa. Our ever faithful friend, Margo Lamp drove in from Davenport, Ia., Eddie Kaupas came in from East Lansing, Mich. Thanks to Mr. E. Bossing, a very large group came from Downers Grove and Western Springs area, as well as others from Hinsdale and other suburban communities.



NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

Canada's Ukrainians and Chicago Mexicans Highlights

The Seventeenth Annual Folk Festival was once again held in St. Louis at the Kiel Auditorium April 4-7 inclusive. In many respects the festival was weaker than last year but nevertheless was one of the festivals of great interest. Many of the old friends and regulars were absent, but many new groups have come to add new delights to the festival.

Amos Kubelik, whom we have been accustomed to seeing take the part of the town crier to open each festival, was absent this year due to illness, but Chris Sanderson, an old and faithful folk festival adherent, was there to pinch-hit as a town crier and perform as a fiddler.

As in every past year, the American Indians opened every program. However, these were not our Kiowa friends of past years, but Osages, Sioux, Sauk and Fox Indians wearing equally as colorful headgears, gay plumage and ornamentations, who presented well a primitive touch of ancient America.

The high school dancers from Taos, New Mexico, who appeared on several days, did some Mexican and New Mexican dances, dancing like high school kids and like "gringos" lacking the inherent verve of the Mexicans, but for high school kids they were all right — as Mexicans they were not.

Many of the presentations of the first two days of the festival leaned heavily on the ballad and tale side of American folklore. Though the topics and subjects might be of interest to folklorists, the bunching together of so many quiet and not too exhilarating presentations created a tendency of dragging. It is true, folklore does not consist of things exclusively gay and hilarious, just as life itself is not always gay, but better integration of the two moods — the gay and the sad — would have created a better appreciation for the quieter aspects of folklore. There were tall tales and ballads of various kinds, cowboy songs and railroad songs, quilting bees and shepherds' pipes, miners' songs and fiddler tunes, harmonica and xylophone players and rope skipping games. The players of the shepherds' pipes, who came from the Houston settlement House in Texas, the harmonica and xylophone players from Clarksburg, West Virginia, and the rope skipping rhythms from Effingham, Illinois, were three children's groups who presented well their contributions.

A remarkable stride was made by the youngsters from the Catholic Central High School of Fort Madison, Iowa, under the direction of Dr. Frank Lyman. During the week they presented a group of English country, sword and morris dances. The kids who appeared in these

The International House, (U of Chicago) folk dancers doing the Passe Pied de Carhaix of the Bretons in France. (Eugene Taylor Foto)

were immaculate and lovable as they ran through the various English dances. This group also did American quadrilles and American squares at other times during the program.

From the Greek Orthodox Church, a group presented two Horros — a Sirtos and a Hasapiko. They were a bit off rhythm. The Rumanians as they danced their two Horras to their haunting tunes were very interesting to the onlooker. The one regrettable fact was that they, with the exceptions of their leader, were not costumed.

The most interesting of Wednesday's presentation was that of the Jewish group, Harikuda, from St. Louis under the direction of Leah Millman. They presented a pageant of the "Feast of Habikkurim" or the gathering of the first fruits. The costumes were stylized and bordered on the ancient Egyptian. About the dances presented, some were made up, some adapted and others, also stylized, were based on present Israeli dances. The whole presentation was excellently done, eye catching and pleasing, but we want to impress upon people who are wont to gather material at folk festivals to be sure not to accept those dances at face value. Aside from that, much credit goes to Miss Millman and her co-workers.

The Mormons from St. Louis presented a chapter of their history allegorically with impressive narrations and earnest singing of hymns and a few squares.

Perhaps Thursday's feature presentation was the Pennsylvania Dutch—a large group of people of various ages from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Their presentation was given in low German and consisted of various games, customs and dances. Perhaps it was just for the benefit of the festival that most of their games were highly flavored with kissing, which surprised a great many onlookers, as many were under the impression that they were a straight laced people. The two square dances performed with dancers over the 55 age limit were unique and enjoyably done to a lively polka rhythm.

Speaking of square dances, there were not too many of them in this year's festival and for the most part were average. A theatric showing under black light with fluorescent clothing and all the elegance of exhibitionism was given by the Houston Honeys Teenagers, identically dressed to kill but making a beautiful picture without denying that their dancing was good. The Barrington, Illinois Kids doing Western Squares likewise gave a very pleasing presentation. Squares also were presented by the groups of St. Louis and environs whose numbers